

Remarks

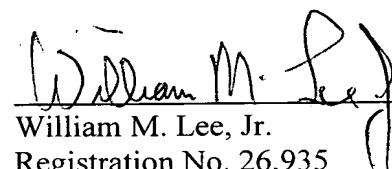
The above amendments are being made in order to eliminate multiple dependency and improper multiple dependency before calculation of the application filing fee. If any multiple dependency remains, that is unintended, and the Patent and Trademark Office is requested to cancel any remaining multiple dependent claims without prejudice before calculation of the application filing fee.

The International Preliminary Examination Report for this application reaches the conclusion that the claims meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step (non-obviousness). It is submitted that the same results should occur in the United States.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

Respectfully Submitted,

January 16, 2001



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Lee, Mann, Smith, McWilliams,
Sweeney & Ohlson
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 368-1300
(312) 368-0034 (fax)